

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02028 230956Z

60

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /120 W

----- 068750

R 230905 APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5141

USUN NEW YORK 306

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2028

USUN FOR USDEL TO LOS CONFERENCE

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, SN, MY, ID

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE AIDE-MEMOIRE REQUESTING U.S. SUPPORT
FOR MODIFICATION OF ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT

SUMMARY: DAO RECEIVED FROM MINDEF APRIL 22 AN AIDE-MEMOIRE
(SEE TEXT BELOW) EXPRESSING GOS CONCERN RE ADVERSE IMPACT
ON THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES OF THE SINGAPORE AIR FORCE
AND NAVY IN THE EVENT THE LOS CONFERENCE ADOPTS THE
ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT AS SET FORTH IN THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING
TEXT. AIDE-MEMOIRE STATES ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT MUST BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 02028 230956Z

MODIFIED FROM SNT TERMS TO ALLOW RETENTION OF ALL EXISTING
"RIGHTS" AND REQUESTS U.S. SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER. END SUMMARY.

1. PERMSEC FOR DEFENSE PANG TEE POW CALLED IN AIR ATTACHE
APRIL 22 AND HANDED HIM AIDE-MEMOIRE (SEE TEXT PARA 4 BELOW)
EXPRESSING GOS CONCERN THAT APPLICATION OF ARCHIPELAGIC
CONCEPT BY INDONESIA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF 12 MILE
TERRITORIAL SEA BY INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA WOULD INVOLVE
ALMOST THE WHOLE AREA USED BY THE SINGAPORE NAVY AND
AIR FORCE FOR TRAINING AND RANGE PRACTICE IN THE SOUTH
CHINA SEA. AIDE-MEMOIRE STATES ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT
MUST BE MODIFIED FROM PRESENT SNT TERMS TO PERMIT RETENTION
OF ALL "EXISTING RIGHTS INCLUDING TRAINING BY MILITARY
AIRCRAFT AND NAVAL SHIPS."

2. DURING CALL BY DCM AND VISITING EA/IMS OFFICER
WILLIAM SHEPARD ON MFA PERMSEC CHIA CHEONG FOOK LATER
SAME DAY, DHIA REFERRED
TO AIDE-MEMOIRE DURING DISCUSSION
OF LOS CONFERENCE AND HOPED U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT
IT. DCM SAID AIDE-MEMOIRE WOULD BE FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT
AND OUR LOS DELEGATION IN NEW YORK, AND WOULD RECEIVE
CAREFUL STUDY. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS FIRST TIME EMBASSY
HAD BEEN ADVISED OF IMS CONCERN ABOUT THIS MATTER, CHIA
NOTED GOS HAD RAISED PROBLEM AT BOTH CARACAS AND GENEVA
SESSIONS OF LOS CONFERENCE. HE SAID NOW THAT SNT
PROVISION ON THIS QUESTION STANDS SOME CHANCE OF ADOPTION,
GOS BELIEVES IT MUST TRY TO OBTAIN SOME MODIFICATION WHICH
WOULD PROTECT ITS TRADITIONAL RIGHTS TO MILITARY TRAINING.
HE INDICATED GOS HAD DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH GOI, AND THAT
INDONESIANS MIGHT BE WILLING TO WORK OUT SOME BILATERAL
ARRANGEMENT. HOWEVER, GOS COULD NOT BE SURE THAT FUTURE
INDONESIAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD ALWAYS ABIDE BY AN AGREEMENT
MADE BY A PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, GOS NEEDED
THESE RIGHTS RECOGNIZED IN
SOME INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, CHIA SAID GOS WOULD NOT BE SENDING
AIDE-MEMOIRES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, BUT WOULD PROBABLY
INFORMALLY SEEK MALAYSIAN AND THAI SUPPORT SINCE GOM AND
RTG ALSO WANTED VARIOUS MODIFICATIONS OF SNT ON ARCHIPELAGOES
TO PROTECT THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 02028 230956Z

3. MINDEF CONCERN IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE UNMODIFIED
APPLICATION OF ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT WOULD REMOVE A LARGE
PORTION OF THE AREA CURRENTLY USED BY RSN AND RSAF FOR
TRAINING AND FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES WOULD DENY
THEM ANY USEFUL AIR AND SEA TRAINING SPACE. EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT WHETHER

GOS IS LIKELY TO WIN MAJORITY ACCEPTANCE AT NEW YORK FOR ITS PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF SNT ON ARCHIPELAGOES. SUGGEST U.S. DEL EXPLORE SYMPATHETICACUY WITH SINGAPORE DEL QEDIFFICULTIE AND PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN MODIFYING SNT. GIVEN OUR OTHER IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN SINGAPORE, EMBASSY HOPES WE CAN BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO GOS ON THIS MATTER.

4. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE:

QUOTE THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IS A PRESENT IN SESSION IN NEW YORK. ONE OF THE MATTERS BEING DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE IS THE ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT. ACCORDING TO THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT (SNT), WHICH IS BEING USED AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, ARCHIPELAGIC STATES MAY DRAW STRAIGHT BASELINES JOINING THE OUTERMOST POINTS OF THE OUTERMOST ISLANDS. THE BREADTH OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA OF AN ARCHIPELAGIC STATE IS TO BE MEASURED FROM THE BASELINES. CERTAIN AREAS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY USED BY US, THE MALAYSIANS AND ANZUK FORCES AS LIVE-FIRING AND TRAINING AREAS FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND NAVAL VESSELS. THE DANGER AREAS FOR THE RANGES ARE CO-ORDINATED BY THE MALAYSIANS THROUGH COMNAVWEST. THE APPLICATION OF THE ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT BY INDONESIA AND THE INCLUSION OF ANOTHER 12 MILES AS A TERRITORIAL SEA BY INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA WOULD INCLUDE ALMOST THE WHOLE OF THE AREA WHICH THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE NAVY AND THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE USE AT PRESENT FOR TRAININGJAND RANGE PRACTICES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. IN PARTICULAR, THIS IS THE ONLY AREA AVAILABLE TO RSAF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO CONDUCT AIR-TO-AIR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SINGAP 02028 230956Z

COMBAT TRAINING. ONLY A NARROW STRIP WOULD BE LEFT. IN VIEW OF THIS, IF THE ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT IS ACCEPTED AT THE CONFERNCE, THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE NAVY WILL HAVE TO TRANSIT A SUBSTANTIAL DISTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL WATERS FOR ITS TRAINING EXERCISES. THE AIR FORCE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE FIGHTER TRAINING. SINGAPORE'S VIEW IS THAT THE ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT MUST BE MODIFIED FROM PRESENT SNT TERMS TO ALLOW THE RETENTION OF ALL EXISTING RIGHTS INCLUDING TRAINING BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND NAVAL SHIPS. WE SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER. UNQUOTE.

HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIDE MEMOIRE, ARCHIPELAGOS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, LAW OF THE SEA, POPULAR SUPPORT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP02028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760155-0608
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604111/aaaagfwc.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970923
Subject: SINGAPORE AIDE-MEMOIRE REQUESTING U.S. SUPPORT FOR MODIFICATION OF ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT
TAGS: PLOS, ID, MY, SN, US, PLOS
To: STATE
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006